

No. CCXLVIII.

Mr. Bancroft said, to an American in England the name of Westminster Abbey called up all the most pleasing associations. As he crossed the Atlantic to visit the homes of his fathers, nothing so appealed to his heart as the cathedrals and ancient churches of England, and, foremost of all, Westminster Abbey. It appeared to them, pilgrims of the West, as if these ancient sanctuaries gathered around them to enwrap them and speak a welcome, and as if they called them into the presence of all that was greatest and most glorious in the recollection of English history and the English mind. Westminster Abbey was the site most suitable for the erection of a monument to the memory of William Caxton—Westminster Abbey, where lay deposited the remains of kings, warriors, and statesmen—the front of Westminster Abbey, where the sun, descending in the far west, casts his last shadow on the most remarkable building in their island,—that was the spot to be selected as the site for the monument of one well skilled in mechanical art, and who made himself glorious because he connected himself with the love of persevering and indomitable industry, not for his own aggrandizement, but for the benefit of the European world, and of the human race. A monument to Caxton, the first man who made the songs of the English poets the common property of the world—a monument to Caxton, who first gave to the songs of Chaucer a current and a circulation as wide as that of the English tongue, led the way for teaching the sons of industry to understand the noble works of Milton and Shakespeare, and employed the English tongue to